

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, line 28 as follows:

~~Fig. 1~~ The Figure shows the boundary lines for starting-gas compositions.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 22 as follows:

The  $\text{NH}_3/(\text{O}_2 + \text{N}_2)$  molar ratio is adjusted as a function of the  $\text{O}_2/(\text{O}_2 + \text{N}_2)$  molar ratio. The Figure ~~[[1]]~~ shows the boundary lines for a starting gas composition wherein **a** is the lower explosion limit for  $\text{NH}_3\text{-CH}_4$  mixture (1:1), **b** is the upper explosion limit for  $\text{NH}_3\text{-CH}_4$  mixture (1:1), **c** is the line for air- $\text{CH}_4\text{-NH}_3$  mixtures, • are the operating points according to the Examples, **G1** is the boundary line  $Y = mX + a$ , with  $m = 1.25$ ,  $a = -0.12$ , **G2** is the boundary line  $Y = mX + a$ , with  $m = 1.40$ ,  $a = -0.08$ , **Y** is the  $\text{NH}_3/(\text{O}_2 + \text{N}_2)$  molar ratio and **X** is the  $\text{O}_2/(\text{O}_2 + \text{N}_2)$  molar ratio.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 29 as follows:

The composition of the starting-gas mixture then lies in a concentration band defined by the following two lines as shown in ~~Fig. 1~~ the Figure:

$$Y = 1.25X - 0.12 \quad \text{and} \quad Y = 1.40X - 0.08$$

where:

$$Y = \text{NH}_3/(\text{O}_2 + \text{N}_2) \text{ molar ratio}$$

$$X = \text{O}_2/(\text{O}_2 + \text{N}_2) \text{ molar ratio}$$

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 24 as follows:

In one series of experiments, and starting from a mode of operation corresponding to the known operating conditions with air as oxygen source, atmospheric oxygen was progressively replaced by pure oxygen and at the same time the  $\text{O}_2/\text{NH}_3$  molar ratio was

reduced while maintaining the  $\text{CH}_4/\text{NH}_3$  ratio constant. All experiments were performed with a constant starting-gas volume flow of 24 l/min (NTP). Table [[1]] 2 shows a selection of representative results.

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, lines 1-2, as follows:

**Table [[1]] 2 Experimental results of enrichment with  $\text{O}_2$  in the starting gas**  
( $d_i$ : 25 mm, starting-gas volume flow  $V'_F$ : 24 Nl/min, starting-gas temperature  $T_F$ : 60°C)